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Greeley-Weld County Airport Passes Triple Inspection

Airport staff is accustomed to the various inspections performed by different agencies to verify the airport is operating safely, and in a manner consistent with the plethora of federal and state requirements for airports.

The summer of 2007 though was bit unusual, as three important inspections came together for the first time ever at about the same time. During the May/June timeframe, safety, compliance, and risk assessment inspections were all performed on the Greeley-Weld County Airport.

The first inspection came from the Airport Authority's insurance company. A risk assessment inspection was performed to identify areas of the airports operations and internal maintenance procedures which posed unusual risk. Upon completion of the inspection, the insurance inspection team noted that they had never completed such an inspection of an airport without a list of recommended improvements to minimize risk and loss. However, in the case of the Greeley-Weld County Airport, they had absolutely no recommendations on how to improve any procedures or functions, as the Authority had already undertaken many actions to reduce risk, minimize loss, and improve safety for its employees.

The second Inspection came shortly thereafter by the Colorado Division of Aeronautics, which performed a safety inspection of the entire airport. The inspection included conditions of the pavement surfaces, pavement markings, airfield lighting, nav aids, obstructions, and other items. At the conclusion of this inspection, the inspection team noted that they were unable to identify a single safety issue, or any item which required improvement or attention of any sort.

Finally, it was the Federal Aviation Administration's turn. The FAA performed a compliance inspection of the airport shortly after the State's safety inspection. While the FAA inspection overlapped some of the items included in the State's inspection, it also looked at many other areas of the airports operations and procedures, to ensure that the Authority was operating and maintaining the airport in full compliance with all applicable FAA regulations and requirements. The result of this inspection was the same as the other two. The airport was found to be in full compliance with all regulations and requirements, and was issued a "clean bill of health" by the FAA.

Airport Authority staff work hard each year to ensure that the airport is being maintained in compliance with all necessary safety and operational requirements of numerous agencies, in addition to just the FAA and the Colorado Division of Aeronautics. These include the EPA, Colorado Department of Environmental Health, OSHA, and others. While the Greeley-Weld County Airport will remain a general aviation airport, airfield conditions, maintenance, and operations are maintained as closely as possible to the same safety standards of any commercial service air carrier airport. These efforts are evident in the results of this out of the ordinary year, in the reports filed by each of the inspecting agencies.

NDB PROCEDURE: The FAA has put the GXY Runway 34 NDB procedure back on the chopping block in its effort to reduce cost through the elimination of old or obsolete instrument procedures. As the Greeley-Weld County Airport is the only airport in Northern Colorado with an NDB approach procedure, the continuance of this procedure is important to many pilots, especially for student pilot training purposes. The Airport Authority is again working towards saving this procedure, and has already submitted updated documentation to the FAA in support of this. For additional information, contact Mike Reisman during normal business hours at (970) 336-3000.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY IN PROGRESS

Businesses on the Greeley-Weld County Airport have either already received, or will soon be receiving, surveys from the Colorado Aeronautics Division, and its consultant Wilbur Smith & Associates. The Colorado Aeronautics Division is in the process of updating the statewide aviation economic impact study information, which determines the economic impact that aviation has throughout Colorado. In the course of this activity, they study the individual economic impact of each airport in the state. The resulting report identifies both the statewide economic benefits of aviation, as well as determining the impact that each airport has upon its own community.

The information that each business will be asked to provide remains highly confidential, and is added to that received from others. The data provided by each business is not used individually, so there is no way of anyone knowing what details were provided by any one business. Additionally, the information is transmitted by the business directly to the consultant, so that airport management never handles or has any opportunity to see what was provided by any airports specific tenants. This is done with the intent on lending legitimacy to the final impact numbers produced, as the local airport never had access to any of the raw data provided to the consultant.

The knowledge of the current economic impact that the Greeley-Weld County Airport has upon the community is an extremely important tool in our local marketing efforts. The ability to obtain and retain support from local elected bodies for airport projects and operations ultimately plays a large role in this continuing support. For that reason, we strongly encourage and request that each business owner on the airport, complete and transmit the survey as soon as possible. Please contact the airport administrative offices with any questions, or if you require any additional information on this statewide project, and how the Greeley-Weld County Airport directly benefits from your participation in it.

Best Management Practices For Stormwater

Maybe you're getting tired of hearing about airport stormwater issues... we certainly get tired of talking about them at times. It's an important issue however which is only going to become increasingly important over time, and which the Greeley-Weld County Airport is committed to maintaining compliance with. The repercussions from ignoring the issue are too great, and have far reaching effects into the wallet of every tenant and operator at the airport.

Even small amounts of fuel, oil and other products which are spilled, or just drip on the ground, end up in the airport's storm water system the next time it rains or there is snow melt off. All of these small amounts can add up to a big problem if practices are not followed to minimize and eliminate these potential storm water pollutants. These issues are especially important at the Greeley-Weld County Airport, since all of the airport's storm water goes directly into Sand Creek and the Poudre River. Pollutants that may enter the creek and river from the airport ultimately effect downstream farm properties since that water is used for irrigation.

Many of the Best Management Practices that can be followed can be easily performed by

the average tenant and pilot on the Greeley-Weld County Airport. For instance:

1. When fueling at the self serve pump, hold the nozzle so that no fuel drips on the ground.
2. Place drip pans or other suitable measures beneath your aircraft if any fluids are leaking from it.
3. Do not wash oil, grease or other pollutants off your aircraft onto the ground. Use rags to wipe the area clean, and then dispose of the rags appropriately.
4. Do not dump used oil or any products into the grass or storm water drains. Contact the airport to dump your used oil in our used oil tank at the maintenance facility.
5. Any aircraft parked outdoors with its cowling removed should have the engine wrapped to keep rain from washing grease onto the ground.
6. Do not leave batteries, aircraft parts, or any open container outdoors on the ground. All such materials should be elevated off the ground and covered.

The Airport Authority provides storm water management training each year to assist each tenant maintain compliance with all of the applicable regulations. The training is free, and staff can provide the training at your location or ours. T-Hangar tenants interested in attending a one hour class can contact Kevin Freiberg at 336-3002.

Skyview Hangars Taking Off

Skyview Hangar Condominiums are ready to fly... The new condominium hangar complex, being constructed near the main entrance of the airport, will offer a total of eight new partitioned box hangars for both sale and lease. Those interested in purchasing or leasing one of these brand new units can contact Chad Graves at (303) 946-6020

Aircraft Rescue Re-Certifications

Airport Authority employees who are trained and certified as Aircraft Rescue Firefighters recently attended annual re-certification live burn training at Denver International Airport. Along with the Authority employees, were two firefighters from the Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority, who are also certified as Aircraft Rescue Firefighters. The annual training includes classroom instruction and review of many of the unique aspects of aircraft rescue and firefighting operations, followed by live burn exercises. Airport Authority and Union Colony personnel, in full gear and SCBA's, fought and extinguished real exterior and interior aircraft fires at the DIA training center. Temperatures in excess of 1,600 degrees are typical inside the simulator, and hose lines were pulled in to fight the fires. Full size dummies weighing in at over 80 pounds were rescued and removed from the simulator during the live burn training.

ID Badge Re-Issuance

Tenant employees on the Greeley-Weld County Airport who routinely require access to the restricted areas of the airport have been issued airport ID badges for several years. All current ID badges are scheduled to expire on October 31st, 2007. The Airport Authority has designed new badges which are now being issued to all employees on the airport with a bonafide need to work in the airport's restricted areas. All employees with ID badges should visit the Airport Authority offices during normal business hours Monday through Friday, prior to the end of October to be issued their new badge. Please bring your old badge in with you for return to the Authority. The re-issuance of ID badges does not affect the issuance of gate access cards for any tenant.

Aircraft Maintenance Run-ups

Did you know that the Greeley-Weld County Airport has a designated area for aircraft maintenance run-ups? The paved area adjacent to Taxiway A2 (the old dog-leg) has been the designated maintenance run-up area for many years. While this is a working airport, and airplane noise comes with the territory, many engine run-ups within the hangar areas have the ability to disrupt the operations of the businesses located nearby. The prop wash can also create safety issues for vehicles and pedestrians in the area, and damage building exteriors. We therefore ask that any run-up be performed out on the airfield in designated areas.

In Memory

Brad Nyp, Airport Maintenance Technician for the Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority for the past 17 years, passed away on August 28th. A memorial service was held at the airport on September 16th. Brad was a dependable and important member of the Airport Authority's maintenance staff, and will be missed by many.

Pre-Winter Planning Meeting

As a result of the substantial snow events which took place last winter, it was suggested to the airport staff that a pre-winter snow removal planning meeting in future years would be of benefit. We agree. For that reason, a Pre-Winter Planning Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th, at 4 P.M. in the Airport Authority Conference Room. All tenants and interested parties are invited to attend. Topics for discussion will include the Authority's snow removal priorities, procedures, and discussions concerning tenant and aircraft access issues during snow events. Also, how tenants who perform their own snow removal and the Authority can work together to ensure that one is not negatively impacting the other. We hope to see you there.

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